AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-2 – cancelled.

3. (Currently Amended) A method ~~according to claim 2~~ of installing a network device in a packet-based data communication network and checking the authenticity of the installation, said method comprising:

(a) communicating identification information of the device to a management system;

(b) installing said device;

(c) obtaining from a protocol address administrator a protocol address for said device;

(d) conducting a key agreement protocol exchange between said device and said management system to establish a set of encryption keys;

(e) using said set of encryption keys to provide mutual authentication by said device and said management system;

(f) associating, within said management system, the time of said exchange in step (d) with said identification information and the protocol address of the device;

(g) communicating from said management system to said administrator a message including said identification information, said protocol address and said time;

wherein, after said step (f) said management system produces further encryption keys for subsequent communications between said management system and said device; and

wherein said management system sends to said device a reset key enabling reiteration of a key agreement protocol exchange corresponding to step ~~(e)~~(d).

2 ~~4.~~ (Currently Amended) A method ~~according to~~as in claim ~~1~~1 and further comprising periodically sweeping through all addresses available to said management system and comparing said addresses with addresses of devices compiled by means of step ~~(f)~~(e).

3 ~~5.~~ (Currently Amended) A method ~~according to~~as in claim ~~1~~1 wherein said identification information includes a revealed encryption key.

4 ~~6.~~ (Currently Amended) A method ~~according to~~as in claim ~~5~~3 wherein said device has stored therein a manufactured encryption key which is related to said revealed encryption key.